

Jabalpur has revealed loss of Ordnance Stores made of brass weighing approximately 989 Kg. and worth about Rs. 17.40 lakh.

(c) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by Head Quarters Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa Area- Inquiry is still in progress. Follow up action will be taken based on the Inquiry report. Necessary instructions on strengthening the security of Ordnance Depots, have since been issued again to all concerned.

Spurt in the activities of insurgent groups in North-East

1189. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent years there has been a spurt in the activities of insurgent groups in the entire North-East Area and more particularly in Assam;

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to contain the insurgency activities in the entire North-Eastern Area so that the developmental activities can be carried on without any hindrance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) It is not correct to say that there has been a spurt in the activities of militant groups in the entire North-East.

The situation in Mizoram continues to be peaceful. Nagaland is also largely peaceful, primarily due to the Cease Fire between Government of India and NSCN(I/M). The situation in Arunachal Pradesh is largely peaceful. However, militant activities in Tirap and Changlang districts have shown an increase. There has been some deterioration in the situation in Meghalaya where the Central Government has recently declared the Achik National Volunteer Council and Hynniewtre National Liberation Council as 'unlawful Associations.' The violence levels in Manipur continue to be at the level of last two years, yet there is cause for serious concern due to subversion of the Government machinery. Civilian killings in Assam and Tripura have shown a sharp increase, primarily due to indiscriminate violence unleashed by militant outfits against unarmed, innocent civilians.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to combat militancy in the North-East include, *inter alla*, deployment of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between the security forces;

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modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; reimbursement of security related expenditure; sanction of Special Central Assistance to the State Governments; declaration of the most seriously affected area as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action. Government have also renewed their appeal to militant groups to come forward for talks. Government are also committed to speedy economic development of the North-Eastern States.

Terrorist nabbed/killed during Ramzan ceasefire

1190. SHRI RAJEEVSHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terrorist nabbed and killed during the Ramzan ceasefire declared by the Prime Minister;

(b) the number of security personnel targeted and killed by terrorist outfits during the ceasefire; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to minimize the casualties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) 227 and 82 terrorists were killed and apprehended respectively during the period of Ramzan Peace Initiative from 28.11.2000 to 25.2.2001.

(b) 91 Security Force personnel were killed during the same period.

(c) Strategies being followed by the Security forces and intelligence agencies are regularly reviewed and refined at various levels including in the Unified Headquarters keeping in view the ground situation and available intelligence inputs.

Judicial Commission to investigate politico-militant nexus in North-East

1191. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up a Judicial Commission to investigate the allegation of politico-militant nexus in the North-East;

(b) if so, by when it will be commissioned; and

(c) if not, why it has been out in the Press?